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AUTHOR	Fraser, Jane
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ABSTRACT

This book provides elementary teachers with ways to use focused observation to help plan thoughtful, effective instruction and curriculum for their students. The recommended strategies can be implemented in a variety of situations, grade levels, and teaching environments. Three chapters present stories related to: getting along in the classroom (social and emotional concerns and partner and group work); classroom organization and management (creating a responsive curriculum); and literacy education. Each chapter presents five sections: a reader's guide, which indicates strategies discussed within the vignette and practical ideas for implementation in the classroom; an explanation to set the scene; a narrative of what actually happened in the classroom on a particular day; the story background, which explains why the vignette is important; and teaching strategies. Ideas for strategic instruction include how to: record observations of students; help students modify self-defeating behavior; assist students in working productively in groups; ease problems that develop in partner work; overcome implicit assumptions with clear, explicit teaching; help beginning readers join the literacy club; pace and evaluate a read-aloud; and diversify instruction in a writing workshop. A glossary is included. (Contains 59 bibliographic references.) (SM)

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